

HEALTH RELATED INFORMATION

This sheet answers questions about the Fruitland Magnesium Fire in Maywood. Many residents temporarily relocated from the Maywood area due to the ash from the fire. Understandably, residents and businesses are concerned about when they can safely return home or to work.

Is it safe to return home?

Residents that have not been evacuated can safely move back into their homes. The Department of Public Health (Public Health) will continue address the health needs in the Maywood area.

What were residents exposed to during the fire?

Because it was a metal recycling facility that caught fire, you may have been exposed to heavy metals as well as ash from burned materials. For a list visit: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/library/air-quality-data-studies/special-monitoring/maywood-fire>

Short-term exposures to metals at these levels are not expected to cause long-term health effects.

What are the symptoms of magnesium or any metals released in the fire?

Health effects from exposure to these metals in this setting include short term symptoms such as irritation to the eyes, nose, throat, and lungs. Some individuals may experience skin irritation from exposure to ash that may be visible in some homes.

Are there any long term health affects to human and animals?

We do not expect that there will be long-term health effects from exposure to smoke from the fire. USEPA and other agencies are investigating the environment to make sure that homes will be safe to re-occupy.

Should we take our kids out of the area until we know the level of toxins released are safe?

Airborne contaminants from the fire have dissipated and outdoor air samples are below thresholds for adverse health effects. However, after any fire, there may be small traces of ash, encourage children to wash their hands and face, with soap and warm water, after playing outside and before eating.